



Image: Charlie Baber

Service of Renaming
[GIVEN NAME]
to
[CHOSEN NAME]

[NAME OF CHURCH]

[CONTACT INFORMATION OF CHURCH]

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

Rev. [NAME]

*HYMN #383

“This is A Day of New Beginnings”

OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Glorious God, whose love, grace, kindness, and mercy is intended for all people: Help us to draw the circle and cast our nets wide, that we may be messengers and vessels of the covenant you have made with us in sending your son Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Genesis 17:1-8, 15-16

Genesis 32:22-28

Matthew 16:13-20

HYMN #2130

“The Summons” *(vs 1-2)*

RECOGNITION OF RENAMING

Dearly beloved, as a people of faith, we know that God continues to shape and mold us in our growth, inviting us to claim for ourselves the people who God created us to be. Each new day is an opportunity to live more fully the promise of who we are. Throughout history, individuals, as they have claimed their unique personhood more fully, have been given a new name, a testimony of their faithfulness.

All: Abram was renamed Abraham.

Sarai was renamed Sarah.

All: Simon was renamed Peter.

Saul was renamed Paul.

All: We know that renaming is an important way to reflect our new nature found in Christ.

Today, a child of God comes forward in an important renaming. It has not been an easy journey, yet we know that the road of faith is not an easy one. We have been asked to witness this renaming and become companions for the journey.

My friend, throughout your life you have been known as [GIVEN NAME]. The Holy Spirit, however, continued to call forth within you something more. Today, you stand before us, your life a testimony to the God who makes all things new. What name do you choose for yourself?

[CHOSEN NAME]: *I am [CHOSEN NAME].*

HYMN #2130

“The Summons” (vs 3-4)

My Friends, through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price. This milestone in [CHOSEN NAME]'s faith journey took place on [DATE] at [LOCATION].

Through confirmation, and through the reaffirmation of our faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church. This milestone in [CHOSEN NAME]'s faith journey took place on [DATE] at [LOCATION].

The questions that were asked at both your Baptism and your Confirmation, I ask you, once again:

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
reject the evil powers of this world,
and repent of your sin?

[CHOSEN NAME]: *I do.*

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves?

[CHOSEN NAME]: *I do.*

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,
put your whole trust in his grace,
and promise to serve him as your Lord,
in union with the Church which Christ has opened
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

[CHOSEN NAME]: *I do.*

HYMN #2130

“The Summons” (vs 5)

You have known the waters of baptism, when you were claimed as God's own; later, you affirmed your commitment to Christ's holy Church through your confirmation. Today, we again use water, as a reminder to you that God continues to claim you and sustain you. May these waters refresh and renew you in your journey of faith.

When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them

to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and by this gift of water call to our remembrance the grace declared to us in our baptism. For you have washed away our sins, and you clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives, that dying and rising with Christ we may share in his final victory.

Laying on of hands

[CHOSEN NAME], you are God's beloved child. May you continue to be a faithful follower of Jesus, glorifying God through all that you do and all that you are. The Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

My friends, I present to you [CHOSEN NAME].

Congregational Response: [CHOSEN NAME], we rejoice with you for all that God has done for you, and for all that has yet to be revealed. As your sisters and brothers, we pledge to walk with you, as you will walk with us. Together we shall drink water from the well of life. May the life and ministry we share always reflect that love of God, which calls us all to wholeness.

GREETING

[CHOSEN NAME]

*HYMN #605

“Wash, O God, Our [Holy Children]”

*THE BENEDICTION

On this day, [DAY, DATE], in the presence of close friends and family, I claim who I am, who I was created to be. In this place where the seeds of my faith were planted; in this place where I have grown and been nourished; in this place where God first called me to serve, I claim the person who God created me to be.

The journey has just begun. Thank you for celebrating with me.

-- [CHOSEN NAME]